

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-19

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R 210900Z FEB 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9655

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

USMISSION NATO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 1934

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, XM

SUBJECT: PEKING AND LATIN AMERICA

SUMMARY: NCNA, FEB. 20 PUBLISHED A REVIEW OF "MASS MOVE-
MENTS" IN LATIN AMERICA OVER THE PAST YEAR. THE ARTICLE IS
NOTEWORTHY IN ITS UNUSUAL ATTENTION TO STRUGGLES IN SOME
LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AGAINST "REACTION AT HOME." NEVER-
THELESS THE ARTICLE IS DESIGNED TO AVOID COMPLICATING CHINA'S
PRIORITY DIPLOMATIC INTERESTS IN LATIN AMERICA. END SUMMARY.

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1. NCNA STATED THAT OVER THE PAST YEAR OR MORE THERE HAS BEEN

A "NEW UPSURGE IN THE MASS MOVEMENT" IN LATIN AMERICA. THE ARTICLE DEVOTED ONE PARAGRAPH TO DESCRIBING DEMONSTRATIONS, PROTESTS AND STRIKES AGAINST THE U.S. OR U.S. INTERESTS IN PUERTO RICO, PANAMA, VENEZUELA AND ARGENTINA. THE ARTICLE THEN REVIEWED THE NUMEROUS LABOR AND PEASANT STRIKES IN BRAZIL, BOLIVIA, URUGUAY, COSTA RICA AND ECUADOR. IT CLASSIFIED THESE EVENTS AS PART OF AN "UPSURGE OF THE PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS AND BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS."

1. THE ARTICLE ALSO REPORTED THAT IN THE PAST YEAR SHARP PEASANT STRUGGLES HAVE DEVELOPED IN "SOME LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES." IT NOTED PEASANT SEIZURES OF LANDS AND CLASHES WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN BRAZIL, HONDURAS, GUATEMALA AND COSTA RICA. THE ARTICLE CONCLUDED THAT "THE PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE" IN LATIN AMERICA IS GROWING IN DEPT AND THAT THE HISTORIC TREND THAT "COUNTRIES WANT INDEPENDENCE, NATIONS WANT LIBERATION AND THE PEOPLE WANT REVOLUTION" IS SURGING AHEAD IN LATIN AMERICA.

3. COMMENT: OVER THE PAST TWO OR THREE YEARS PEKING'S COMMENTS ON LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS HAVE FOCUSED ON THE STRUGGLE IN DEFENSE OF "STATE SOVEREIGNTY AND NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE" AGAINST THE PRESSURE AND EXPLOITATION OF "IMPERIALISM AND SOCIAL IMPERIALISM," OVER THIS PERIOD, NCNA HAS CONTINUED OCCASIONALLY TO REPORT STRIKES AND OTHER FORMS OF SOCIAL UNREST IN LATIN AMERICA BUT THIS IS THE FIRST COMMENTARY IN SOME TIME WHICH HAS FOCUSED ON THE MASS MOVEMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AGAINST "REACTION AT HOME."

4. THE ARTICLE MAY BE A NEW EXPRESSION OF THE CURRENT TENDENCY IN PEKING TO INSERT A MORE IDEOLOGICAL VIEW IN SOME ASPECTS OF ITS PROPAGANDA. NEVERTHELESS, THE ARTICLE SEEMS DESIGNED TO AVOID COMPLICATING CHINA'S DIPLOMATIC INTERESTS. NCNA DOES NOT TREAT THE PRESENT "MASS MOVEMENTS" IN LATIN AMERICA AS ANY MORE THAN REFORMIST EFFORTS. THERE IS NO MENTION OF ANY ROLE FOR MARXIST ELEMENTS. MOST IMPORTANTLY, NCNA'S REVIEW FAILS TO DISCUSS UNREST IN ANY COUNTRY WITH WHICH THE PRC HAS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. IT IGNORES RECENT DOMESTIC TROUBLES IN MEXICO AND ARGENTINA, TWO COUNTRIES WHOSE LEADERS AND POLICIES HAVE BEEN RECEIVING

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A GREAT DEAL OF FAVORABLE ATTENTION IN PRC MEDIA. THE NCNA REVIEW ALSO CONVENIENTLY NEGLECTS TO DISCUSS THE TRICKY SITUATION IN CHILE. IN THIS CONNECTION WE NOTE THE AFP REPORT FEB. 19 THAT PEKING HAS GIVEN AGREEMENT FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW CHILEAN AMBASSADOR.

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